

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /096 W

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P R 061250Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5178

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS KINSHASA 9710

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO, PO, CG, CF, PINS

SUBJ: CABINDA SITUATION/ FNLA & UNITA REPORTED IN BENGUELA  
AND LOBITO

SUMMARY: ZAIRIAN PRESS REPORTS DEFECTION OF 600 MPLA SOLDIERS  
TO FLEC AND ALERT OF FAZ SEVENTH BATTALLION. PRESS ALSO  
ANNOUNCES FALL OF BENGUELA AND LOBITO TO UNITA/FNLA.

1. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWSAGENCY (AZAP) REPORT FROM BOMA (BAS-  
ZAIRE) SAID SEVENTH MILITARY REGION ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ)  
ON NOVEMBER 4 REPORTED TENSE SITUATION ALONG ZAIRE-CABINDA  
BORDER WHERE THOUSANDS OF CABINDAN REFUGEES HAD CONCENTRATED  
SEEKING REFUGE IN ZAIRE FROM FIGHTING BETWEEN FLEC AND MPLA  
FORCES. AZAP REPORT NOTED CONFIRMATION OF RADIO LUANDA EXPRESSIONS  
OF CONCERN LAST WEEK AND EARLIER THIS WEEK CONCERNING MPLA-  
FLEC CLASHES IN CABINDA. ACCORDING TO AZAP REPORTER WHO INTER-  
VIEWED REFUGEES AT BOMA, TENSION DERIVED NOT SO MUCH FROM CLASHES  
AS FROM "MASSIVE ENTRY OF CONGOLESE TROOPS COMING FROM BELIZE,  
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BUCO-ZAU AND KINGE". SAYING THIS INFORMATION MUST BE TAKEN WITH

USUAL RESERVE, AZAP REPORT NOTED HOWEVER THAT IT IS GIVEN SOME CREDENCE BY "DEFECTION OF 600 MPLA SOLDIERS OF CABINDAN ORIGIN AFTER LEARNING OF INVASION OF TERRITORY BY CONGOLESE TROOPS. AZAP CORRESPONDENT REPORTEDLY SAW HEAVY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE, INCLUDING MISSILES AND HEAVY CANNON, BROUGHT BY DECTORS TO STRENGTHEN FLEC POSITION. MPLA DEFECTORS AND ARMAMENT, REPORT CONTINUES, SERVED TO RALLY FLEC, WHICH HAS LATELY BEEN ENGAGED IN INTENSE MILITARY ACTIVITY AIMED AT EXPELLING MPLA FROM CABINDA, AND HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY UNFORUTUNATE DIVISION BETWEEN NZITA FACTION OPERATING WITHIN CABINDA AND RANQUE FRANQUE FACTION IN KINSHASA. REPORT CONCLUDED WITH NOTE THAT FAZ SEVENTH BATTALLION HAS BEEN ORDERED TO ASSURE SECURITY ALONG ZAIRE-CABINDA BORDER.

2. SEPARATE AZAP ARTICLE DATELINED LUANDA NOVEMBER 6 SAID THAT PORTUGUESE MILITARY SOURCE REPORTS FALL NOVEMBER 4 OF BENGUELA AND LOBITO TO FNLA AND UNITA FORCES. ARTICLE SAYS THAT, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM LUANDA, MPLA LOST SEVEN COMPANIES (AROUND 1000 MEN) IN BATTLE FOR THE TWO PORTS. SAME PORTUGUESE SOURCE REVEALED THAT MANY CUBAN MERCENARIES HAD BEEN KILLED, CAPTURED, OTHERS HAD DISAPPEARED IN BATTLE.

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